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# NEWSLETTER

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## News from the Forest Service

**Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest**

Edited on: March 15, 2013

### Wood Cutting Season to Begin SOON!

You can always tell when spring is officially here because firewood season starts up again! I don't know where the winter went, but I am personally ready for spring, minus the mud and the wind!



We will begin issuing wood permits on Friday, April 12, 2013. If you get your permit on April 12th please be aware that you can not cut wood until Saturday, April 13, 2013. There are no changes this year, it is still a minimum purchase of 4 cords for \$20.00, \$5.00 per cord, with the maximum purchase of 10 cords. There will be no free use cutting area on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District this year. You may pick up a free use permit and use it on other free use areas on the Coconino Forest. At this time I am not sure where those areas will be, once we receive our Firewood Guides we will know.

There has been a change in the purchasing procedure on the forest. We now have a program called POSS (Point of Sale System), this enables our customer to now make purchases with credit cards. We still will take, cash or a check, but our preferred method of payment is mainly by credit card. Please keep this in mind when you come in to pick up your Firewood Permit, or purchase a map.

It is a good program, but just like any other computer program, it has its quirks! So please use patience if we are having technical difficulties when you come in. Thank you!



### Forest Roads

I am sure you are wondering if the forest roads will be open when the firewood permits go on sale. At this time it is hard to say, it is up to Mother Nature! We need the snow to melt and the roads to dry before we can officially open them up. If we don't get any more moisture and receive some warm temperatures and wind, this will help considerably. The Rim Road, FR 300 is always the last to open. When we begin to open roads, I will send out an email.

### Blue Ridge Reservoir

As of January 31, 2013 the Reservoir was 29% of capacity, as of March 12, 2013 the Reservoir is at 75% of capacity at the end of the boat ramp. SRP is planning to draw water down again this summer to continue maintenance on their equipment. Due to the draw down of the water by SRP, Arizona Game & Fish do not plan to stock it at all this spring/summer. There are still plans to begin boat ramp improvements this coming fall.



## Report from Rocky Mountain Research Station on Water Shortage



On February 21, 2013 USDA Forest Service, Research and Development, Rocky Mountain Research Station issued a News Release addressing the Western states being most vulnerable to water shortages. Here is what it said:

**Fort Collins, CO**—A new US Forest Service report predicts that most of the Southwest, parts of California and the southern and central Great Plains will be the most vulnerable areas in the nation to water shortages during the next 60 years.

Climate change will substantially increase water demand and cause decreases in water supply in those regions of the United States, even as cities, farms and thermoelectric facilities become more efficient in the water usage.

Scientists from the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Colorado State University and Princeton University used global climate models along with socio-economic scenarios to determine future water supply and demand, and the likelihood of future water shortages.

The research team, led by Tom Brown, Research Economist at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and Jorge A. Ramirez of Colorado State University, attempted to show where and to what extent water shortages would occur if populations grew and climates changed—but water allocation rules, infrastructure, laws and use trends remained as they are currently. The report shows where adaptation measures will be most needed.

Brown stated that “we were surprised to find that climate change is likely to have a much greater effect on future water demands than population growth. The combined effects of climate change on water supply and demand could lead to serious water shortages in some regions.”

The report, “Vulnerability of US Water Supply to Shortage: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment,” affirmed that of 98 river basin assessments across the US, the arid and semi-arid regions of the nation are the most vulnerable areas to future water shortages. Although the detailed results differ depending on which scenario is simulated and which climate model is used, the general finding of increasing and substantial vulnerability in the Southwest holds true in all cases.

To download or read the report online go to:  
[www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/42363](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/42363).

Until next month, think  
warm and mudless  
weather!

*Jean Gilbertson, Editor*